



JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE ANNOUNCES END TO VAN LARE SMOKESTACKS *County Begins Process to Remove Smokestacks at Irondequoit Facility*

County Executive Jack Doyle today announced that the first of a pair of smokestacks at the Van Lare sewage treatment facility will be removed over the course of the next several months as the facility continues its transformation from an incineration-based plant to a more environmentally friendly centrifuge operation.

"I am very pleased that we are moving forward with the promised removal of the stacks at Van Lare," said Doyle. "For many Irondequoit residents living near Van Lare, the stacks have become a symbol of unwelcome nuisance odors. Today we begin the process of permanently removing the stacks and eliminating the negative aspects of the treatment process at our community's largest sewage processing facility."

The elimination of the smokestacks at Van Lare is made possible by the installation of large centrifuges at the plant. This new technology dramatically reduces water content of sludge at the facility and makes it economical to transport it versus the current process of incineration.

In addition to reducing odors, ending the practice of burning sludge will eliminate the need to bring the Van Lare plant into costly compliance with federal clean air standards over the next decade by making it more environmentally friendly.

Initially, only the brick smokestack will be demolished this year due to the need to keep one stack online and operational during the transition process. The stack to be demolished was constructed in the 1950s and operated as the primary stack until 1976. It has been used as the back-up since that time and currently occupies the area where a new sludge out-load facility will be constructed.

Once the stack is demolished, construction can begin on this new out-load facility – a key component in changing the primary process used at the plant from incineration to centrifuge facilitated landfilling.

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Demolition, removal and disposal of the stack are expected to take approximately three months at a projected cost of \$205,000. The stack will be removed incrementally to protect the remaining structure.

The brick stack is 175 feet tall with a diameter of 21.5 feet at the base and 10.5 feet at the top. The International Chimney Corporation of Buffalo, New York has been selected for the demolition project.

It is anticipated that the sludge out-load facility will begin operation in 2004 and, as the new process becomes fully operational, incineration will be eliminated once and for all at Van Lare. Incineration will need to continue during the design, construction and start-up phase of the new sludge out-load facility because landfills are currently unable to take the sludge produced at Van Lare due to the odor.

Once the out-load facility is fully operational, the county will be able to de-water and truck the chemically treated sludge to the landfill with odor no longer an issue of major concern around the facility. Odor related issues have been a priority and these concerns have been significantly reduced in recent years as the new process has been phased in. The Department of Environmental Services continues to operate an odor hotline that residents can call to voice concerns at 760-7635.

It is expected that once the new process is fully implemented the remaining incineration smokestack will be removed on a targeted demolition date in the summer of 2005.

"Innovation will mean that Van Lare is a better neighbor in Irondequoit and that it is also a more environmentally friendly facility," said Doyle. "As we continually seek to build on our record of tax stability, creative new approaches to services and value for our residents, this project will keep Monroe County at the cutting edge of municipal environmental services. The removal of the stacks at Van Lare sends a clear and highly visible message that this community values environmental conservation and enhanced residential quality of life."

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For further information, call:

Communications and Special Events, 428-2380

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